30th January 1956] [Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam]

The first infection on the leaves was noticed in the nurseries at Annavasal, Moolangudi of Mannargudi taluk. Remedial measures were immediately taken and the disease was brought under check. Intensive propaganda was immediately carried on by the Agricultural extension staff. The Collector also was requested on 26th December 1955 to give wide publicity to the existence of the disease through revenue staff. The All-India Radio was requested to announce the prevalence of the disease indicating the remedial and control measures to be adopted in their farmers programmes. The entire district of Tanjore has been declared pest-affected by the Collector at the instance of the Agricultural Department as early as 13th October 1955. The total area affected by blast in the entire Tanjore district is estimated to be 3,000 acres. Of this 60 per cent (1,800 acres) is reported to show neck infection. The area having neck infection has to be considered as completely lost.

The Agriculture Department have evolved paddy strains which are resistant to blast disease. Co25 and ADT 25 are two of the most popular blast-resistant strains which are suited to the Tanjore district. Seeds of these two strains are available in the agricultural depots. I myself saw in Tanjore yesterday that plants of Co 25 and ADT 25 were completely unaffected by this disease, while the plants of other local strains were affected. I may assure the hon. Member that the Government are doing everything that they can by way of propaganda and by adoption of measures to check the incidence of this disease.

IV.—PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL (Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation) : Sir, I beg to present the first report[a] of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

V.—NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTION *RE* SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE AT OOTACAMUND.

* SRI P. T. RAJAN : Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name—

"That this House recommends to the Government to make arrangements for holding the sittings of the Legislature in Ootacamund in April or May 1956."

There may possibly be two arguments against the acceptance of this resolution. One is on the ground of the extra cost involved which, I believe, is about fifty thousand rupees. The other is that a party which had opposed exodus to the hills once will have to go back on the stand it took if it were to accept this resolution.

I have been a regular visitor to Ootacamund ever since 1921, because Ootacamund was the summer headquarters of the Government of Madras. Almost all the Select Committees met there every

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 350–375 *infra*.

year. Prior to 1920 the Lisgislative Council used to meet in Ootacamund. Those were days when the strength of the Council was very limited.

10-30 a.m. After the Britisher left India, Ootacamund, which was the centre of life and which attracted visitors from all over India, put up a very desolate and deserted appearance. Ootacamund was the Queen of the hill stations, and any one who visited it felt happy. India felt proud that it had a hill station like Ootacamund. I feel that we, Madrasis, ought to feel more proud than others. I may incidentally mention that committees of the Government of India and other committees have met in Ootacamund very often. The Madras Race Course also felt that races should be arranged in Ootacamund to attract crowds from the plains. I am glad to feel that the Government have now seen their way to help Ootacamund to gain its former glory. This is only an indirect help and not a direct help. The amount of extra expenditure involved is only Rs. 50,000. Even granting that it costs a little more than Rs. 50,000, it is worthwhile incurring that expenditure to make Ootacamund once again prosperous.

As regards the question that the party which once opposed this annual move to Ootacamund should not go back on its earlier resolution, I would say that if one changes one's colour, it might be a sign of opportunism, but if one changes one's opinion, it is only a sign of wisdom. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. the Leader of the House on changing his views, namely, that it is high time that the Government went to the rescue of the people of Ootacamund. I do hope that no part of the House will oppose this resolution. There may be some persons outside the House who may oppose this move, but so far as this House is concerned, I hope it will accept it and also the Government will accept it.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : I second the resolution, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved—

"That this House recommends to the Government to make arrangements for holding the sittings of the Legislature in Ootacamund in April or May 1956."

The motion is before the House for discussion. The hon. Member Sri V. Balakrishnan will now speak.

10-35 a.m. * **SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :** கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்தத் தீர்மானம் கொண்டுவருவதினால் ஒரு சிலருக்கு நன்மை செய்யக்கூடிய தாகவும், அதே சமயத்தில் பலருக்குத் தீமை பயக்கக்கூடியதாய் இருந்த போதிலும் இந்தத் தீர்மானத்தை நான் வரவேற்கிறேன். இந்தத் தீர்மானத்தைக் கொண்டுவரும் ஸ்ரீ பி. டி. ராஜன் நீலகிரியிலிருந்து மிகுந்த அனுபவம் பெற்றவர். அவர் சென்னை சட்டசபைக் கூட்டம் உதகமண்டலத்தில் நடத்துவதற்கு வேண்டிய ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமாறு சர்க்காருக்கு சிபார்சு செய்யும் தீர்மானத்தை கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறார்.

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நீலகிரி சுகவாசத்திற்கு மிகுந்த வசதியான இடம். அங்கே ஏராளமான காய்கறி வகைகளும் உணவுப்பொருள்களும் கிடைக்கும். கோடைக் காலங்களில் போய்த் தங்குவதற்கு ஏற்ற இடம். முன்பெல்லாம் வெள்ளைக் காரர்களும், பெரிய பணக்காரர்களும், ஜமீன்தார்களும் நீலகிரியிலும், கொடைக்கானலிலும், கோடைக்காலங்களில் போய் தங்குவார்கள். நீலகிரியில் வசிப்பவர்கள் துரைகளிடம் வேலைக்கு அமர்ந்து ஒரு சிறிது காலம் வயிறார உண்டு சுகமாக வாழ்ந்துவந்தார்கள். நீலகிரியில் இருக்கும் ஒருவர் சொன்னார் "சுதந்திரம் வருவதற்கு முன்பு அதாவது வெள்ளைக் காரர்கள் இருந்தபோது, பெரிய பணக்காரர்களும், பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ் தர்களும் இங்கு வந்து அடிக்கடி தங்குவார்கள். அவர்கள் நிறைய ஆட்களை வேலைக்கு தங்களிடத்தில் அமர்த்திக்கொள்வார்கள். அவர்கள் சாப்பிடுவதையெல்லாம் எங்களுக்கும் பங்கு கொடுப்பார்கள். அப்பொழுது எங்களுக்கு வேலையிருந்துகொண்டேயிருக்கும். அப்பொழுது நாங்கள் வயிறார சாப்பிடுவோம். ஒரு விதமான கவலையும் கிடையாது. ஆனால் சுதந்திரம் வந்த பிறகு வெள்ளைக்காரர்கள் போய்விட்டார்கள். நாங்கள் மிகுந்த கஷ்டத்திற்குள்ளாகி இருக்கிறோம். அரைவயிறு கஞ்சியும் சரியாக கிடைப்பதில்லை. இப்பொழுது பணக்காரர்களும், சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர் களும் சென்னையிலிருந்து வருகிறார்கள். என்ன பிரயோஜனம்? தங்களுக்கு வேண்டியவற்றையெல்லாம் அவர்கள் அங்கிருந்தே மூட்டைக்கட்டிக் கொண்டுவந்துவிடுகிறார்கள். இரண்டு வாரத்திற்கு இங்கு வந்து தங்குவதா யிருந்தாலும், சாப்பாட்டிற்கு வேண்டிய அரிசி, பருப்பு, மிளகாய், புளி, என் அம்மி முதலிய எல்லாவற்றையும் கொண்டுவந்துவிடுகிறார்கள். போதாதக்குறைக்கு ஊர்க்காயையும் ஜாடியில் கொண்டுவருகிறார்கள். பால் நீலகிரியில் வாங்கவேண்டுமே என்பதற்காக சொந்த பசுவையே ரயில்வே வாகினில் ஏற்றிக்கொண்டுவந்துவிடுகிறார்கள். இவர்கள் தங்கள் ஊரிலிருந்தே இவ்வாறு எல்லாவற்றையும் கொண்டுவருவதினால், இங்கிருக்கும் வியாபாரிகளுக்கும், சிறிய கடைக்காரர்களுக்கும், தொழிலாளர் களுக்கும், வியாபாரமும் ஆகாமல், வேலையும் கிடைக்காமல் திண்டாடு கிறார்கள். ஆதலால் எங்கள் பொருளாதார நிலை மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்பட் டிருக்கிறது" என்று சொன்னார். இது உண்மை. இந்த வருத்தம் நீலகிரி மக்களை வாட்டுகிறது. இந்த மனப்பான்மையில்தான் நீலகிரி மக்களும் கர்நாடகராஜ்யத்தோடு சேர எண்ணுகிறார்கள். இந்த வருத்தம் கொண்டி ருப்பவர்களை, நமது அரசாங்க மந்திரி ஒருவர் மட்டும் படாமல் பதில் சொல்கிறவர் சமீபத்தில் இதே நீலகிரி மக்களை அவமதித்து பேசியிருக் கிறார்கள். சில மக்கள் மந்திரியை அணுகி அவர்களுக்கு இருக்கும் குறைகளை எடுத்துச்சொல்லி நம் நாட்டில் தாண்டவமாடும் லஞ்ச ஊழல்களை சுட்டிக் காண்பிக்கும் பொழுது மந்திரி பொறுமையை இழந்து "லஞ்ச ஊழல்களைப் பற்றி உங்களிடத்தில் நான் தெரிந்து கொள்ளவேண்டியதில்லை" என்று பதில் சொன்னாராம். இதே மந்திரி இன்னொரு மாணவர் கூட்டத்திலும் அவர்கள், நீலகிரி மக்களை சென்னை சர்க்கார் கவனிக்கப்படுகிறதில்லை என்ற காரணத்தால்தான், நீலகிரி மக்கள் சென்னையிலிருந்து பிரிந்து போக விரும்புகிறார்கள் என்று தெரிவித்தற்கு "ஓ உங்களை ஒவ்வொருவராக கண்காணிக்க நாங்கள் சர்க்காரில் அமையவில்லை" என்று மந்திரி பதில் சொன்னாராம். இந்த இரண்டு சம்பவம் நீலகிரி மக்களை துன்புறுத்தி, மனதை நோகச்செய்திருக்கிறது. இதைப்போன்ற குறைகளை நிவர்த்தி செய்ய நமக்கு இது நல்ல சந்தர்ப்பம். நாம் சில நாட்களுக்கு அவர்கள் மத்தியிலே தங்கி, அவர்களை நேரில் கண்டு நட்பு ஏற்படுத்தி, நல்லெண்ணம் உண்டாக்குவதற்கு சபை ஊட்டியில் கூடுவது நல்ல வாய்ப்பு. நீலகிரி மக்களின் குறைகளை போக்கவும் அவர்களின் சுகவாழ்வுக்கு சென்னை அரசாங்கம், மக்கள் பிரதிநிதிகள் எல்லோரும் அக்கரை கொண்டுள்ளார்கள் என்பதை எடுத்துக்காட்டுவதற்கு இந்தத் தீர்மானம் நிறைவேற்றப்படவேணு மென்றும், அமுலாக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

Sri V. MUTHU : நீலகிரிக்குச் செல்லும்போது அவரவர்களுக்கு வேண் டிய உணவுப் பொருள்களையும் ஊருகாயையும் கொண்டுபோகவேண்டிய தில்லை. சர்க்காரே அந்தப் பொருள்களை அங்கே வாங்குவதற்கு சௌகரியம்

செய்வார்கள் என்று சொன்னார்கள். அப்படியென்றால் தம்பதி சமேதராய் போகும் அங்கத்தினருக்கும் எல்லா வசதிகளும் செய்துகொடுப்பார்களா ? (சிரிப்பு.)

10–40 a.m. SRI A. M. RATHNASWAMY : " Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I am constrained to oppose the resolution so ably moved by hon. Member Sri P. T. Rajan. We should take into consideration the context of the present situation when this resolution is moved in this House. We should also take into consideration the feelings of the people outside this House and we must also consider what amount of backing there will be for this kind of resolution. Ever since the Congress took up the reins of administration in this country, it began to shake off all the vestiges of imperialism. The popular Congress Ministry when it took up the reins of administrative responsibility in this State in 1937 under the able leadership of Sri Rajagopalachariar, this question of holding a session of the Legislature in Ooty was considered and that Ministry rightly decided that the session could very well be held in Madras and there was absolutely no need to hold it in Ooty.

Sir, I doubt very much the statement made by the hon. Mover of the resolution when he said that the expenditure would be only Rs. 50,000. Sir, when we feel like having a session in Ooty, the whole Capital should move and you can very well imagine the implication, financial and otherwise, of such a move. The whole Secretariat has got to move and many of the paraphernalia have got to be observed. There is already a feeling in this country that there is a good deal of redtapism still continuing. We can imagine what amount of delay in the disposal of papers there will be if the session has to be held in Ooty. I do not know whether the hon. Mover of the resolution feels that the Secretariat has also got to be moved to Ooty or not. In case it was necessary, it will entail a good deal of expenditure. If, however, the Secretariat had to function in Madras and the session had to be held in Ooty, I am afraid the delay in the disposal of papers will be enormous. What amount of difficulties and inconvenience would be experienced by the people? I leave it to the imagination of the hon. Mover and also the Government. I am afraid that this is not a popular move. After all, our Congress Ministries both in the various States and in the Centre are endeavouring their very best to build up a true democracy in this country. Democracy was defined by no less a person than Abraham Lincoln that it is a Government of the people by the people and for the people. Therefore, we have got to take sufficient caution and care in this kind of move before any decision could be arrived at on this question. It was all right for the Europeans to have the session in Ooty so far as this State was concerned and in Simla so far as the Central Government was concerned. Those people came from a very cold country and so wanted to have some relaxation and rest in this hot country. But, I wonder how there can be any analogy between we Indians and those Europeans. After all, we are born and bred up in a hot place. I would only

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like to tell the hon. Mover of the resolution that after all we are trying to build up a Government based on democratic lines and are trying to create a socialistic pattern of society in this country with the Gandhian background. So, I appeal to him to understand the implications of his move. We are struggling very hard to see that the Second Five-Year Plan which is going to be taken up by our Government is implemented successfully. Even assuming that the extra expenditure will be to the tune of Rs. 50,000 I would like to point out that that sum is not a small one. Nowadays, every pie counts. There is already a feeling in the minds of the people that the tax burden is very great. Considering the various points and the implications of his move, I urge upon the hon. Mover of the resolution to withdraw it. Thank you, Sir.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Mr. Speaker, I want to intervene at this stage of the debate, because there seems to be certain misunderstanding with reference to the scope of the resolution and also the matters involved if the Resolution is to be implemented. Sir, the idea of having a sitting of the Legislature on the hills was considered at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee and there was some unanimity of opinion about it and I was asked to investigate the financial implications. I asked the Secretariat to find out what would be the extra expenditure. We find that if all the Members attend the session at Ootacamund, we will be incurring an extra expenditure of Rs. 50,000 by way of increased travelling allowance. As far as daily allowance is concerned, there will not be any increased expenditure as the same daily allowance which is paid in Madras will be paid there also. Then, the entire Legislature Secretariat will have to be moved to the hills. The expenditure on this account will come to about Rs. 13,000 and odd. A skeleton staff of the Secretariat—and not the entire Secretariat as pointed out by the hon. Member Sri Rathnaswamy—will also have to be moved to the hills and the expenditure on this account will be to the extent of Rs. 10,000. We will have to secure accommodation for the Legislature Secretariat and also for the meeting of the Legislature. The expenditure on that account will come to about Rs. 2,500. On the whole, it is estimated that the extra expenditure will come to Rs. 33,000 or Rs. 35,000. I have put it at Rs. 50,000 as there are likely to be some other items of expenditure which could not be foreseen at present. This will be the order of expenditure. As far as expenditure is concerned, it is not much. As far as the Government are concerned, we are prepared to abide by the decision of the Assembly and we have no particular views. This question will have to be looked at not merely from the point of view of the convenience of the Members. I know some of the hon. Members and some of my Colleagues are very much opposed to this idea, because the climate of Ootacamund does not agree with them. As a matter of fact, their experience is that at the hills, they feel often sick. It is not a question of convenience of the Ministers or even of the Members. I am sure that some hon. Members may

A—6

not feel quite congenial at Ootacamund. So, it is not a question of convenience of the Ministers. As far as the Ministers are concerned, they can go to Ootacamund even if the Legislature is not sitting there and nobody can prevent it.

10-50 a.m. Therefore, the question of the convenience of the Ministers does not arise. In my humble view, the convenience of the Members does not arise here. The question is whether it is desirable to have a sitting there. Sir, in this connexion, I would like to point out that simply because we have got independence and we are working for a Socialistic pattern of society, that does not mean that people should not enjoy certain conveniences like holiday resorts. On the other hand, the Government are of the view that we should develop our holiday resorts to a greater extent and their intention is to see that these holiday resorts should be made available not only to rich persons, to whom alone they are restricted now, but also to the middle class and poor classes of our people. It is only from that point of view that we want to develop holiday resorts like Ootacamund, Coonoor, Kodaikanal and Courtallam. In developing them, it is our view to see that the lower classes of Government servants, the Non-Gazetted officers, also get an opportunity to spend some time in these holiday resorts by rotation and a scheme is under the consideration of the Government. The Planning Commission and the Government of India are very particular that these amenities should be provided for Government employees, particularly the low-paid Government employees. Apart from the question of the sitting of the Legislature, it is the intention of the Government to see that these holiday resorts are developed and are made available to the poorer class of people and I am sure that when I come before this House at the appropriate time—if I happen to be in charge of the Finance portfolio—I will get the wholehearted support of the entire House in making provision for giving holiday facilities for the low-paid officials in these holiday resorts. I think during the War time these facilities were made available to certain categories of Government employees. Therefore, it is necessary to develop not only these three or four holiday resorts but also some more holiday resorts which we will have to look for and develop. That is the idea of the Government. If that be so, it should be taken into consideration whether it should not give a fillip for the development of these areas if the hon. Members also sit there for a short time for this purpose and it is from that aspect hon. Members should consider the question.

Then there is the other point raised by the hon. Member Sri Rathnasami, who said that there was likely to be delay and that people are likely to misunderstand. I am sure there is no question of delay being involved because of our having a sitting of the Legislature at Ootacamund. So far as the Heads of Departments are concerned and so far as the Secretariat is concerned, mostly they will be functioning only at Madras and our sitting in the Hill station will not in any way interfere with the disposal of papers.

30th January 1956] [Sri C. Subramaniam]

I would like the hon. Members to consider this and to come to a decision on this issue. Unless there is unanimous acceptance of this proposal, the Government do not want to take up the responsibility of having a sitting at Ootacamund. Even if there is an unanimous resolution, the Government will have to further investigate into the facilities available there, not only for the purpose of holding a sitting of the Legislature there, but also to find out whether hon. Members could be properly accommodated there. It should be possible to get accommodation which should be within the means of all the hon. Members. All these aspects will have to be taken into consideration before a final decision is arrived at. I would like hon. Members to consider this resolution in a dispassionate way, without attaching any political considerations to it, and therefore I would request the various Parties concerned not to try to make political capital out of this. Whatever decision is arrived at by the House, certainly it will be considered by the Government. If it is the wish of this House that there should be a sitting on the Hills, certainly, so far as the Government are concerned, they will try their best to find out the various facilities which should be made available for that purpose. Therefore, there should be no misunderstanding on this issue.

I would also like to mention another aspect. Some people think how far spending a sum of Rs. 50,000 is going to improve the Nilgiris. We will be spending not only the sum of Rs. 50,000. The amount which would ordinarily be spent in Madras would also be spent in addition to the sum of Rs. 50,000. My own view is that if we hold that session here, we would be spending about Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs. This sum of Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs, which we would spend in Madras, will also be spent in the Nilgiris. All the daily allowance, which would be paid to the hon. Members, and the additional amounts which many hon. Members can afford to spend, will all be spent there. All this would go for the purpose of stabilising the life on the Hills. That is an aspect which the hon. Members will have to bear in mind.

As I have already stated, the Government have no particular views in this matter. They are prepared to be guided by the sense of this House and by the resolution of this House. That is all I have to mention at this stage. If any additional points are raised, I am sure, if necessary, I will be given an opportunity to say, by way of reply, the Government's point of view in respect of those points.

Sri H. B. ARI GOWDER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ordinarily a representative of a host district, if I may say so, should welcome a move of this kind. As a matter of fact, years ago, we were bitterly complaining against the stopping of the exodus to the Hill station but we were told the reasons and then we realized that we should not complain any more. The main reasons are advanced from the point of view of health. It is not a matter of shifting or going from one plain hot country to another plain cool

country like Europe, America or other countries of the world. It is a matter of moving up the hills, that is, to a higher elevation, where ratified air and less exygen are the result. "After forty, avoid upstairs" is the maxim. I really do not know how many Members have got sound heart. Even if they have, I doubt very much whether everybody will go there perfectly protected against the sudden onslaught of what is called "heart attack". Men who have walked up the hills have the experience of loss of breath. In the hills, it is always a case of walking up the hills one way or the other. There are people who may be predisposed to heart attacks. They will have to be very careful. Then there is the usual complaint of hill diarrhœa. By itself, hill diarrhœa is not very serious, but if complications set in, it is serious.

I.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER—*cont.*

(2) OBSERVANCE OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF MARTYRS IN THE CAUSE OF INDIA'S FREEDOM—*cont.*

11 a.m. MR. SPEAKER: All hon. Members will stand and observe silence for two minutes in memory of those who laid down their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

All the Members stood up and observed silence for two minutes.

V.—NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTION *RE* SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE AT OOTACAMUND—*cont.*

SRI H. B. ARI GOWDER (*cont.*): Every member who desires to go to the hills would be well-advised to go equipped with blankets and other warm clothing and shoes or boots as the case may be. Many of the members, I am afraid, will find no use for them after this year because they may not be elected again to this Assembly.

There is another factor for which the Hon. Minister has forgotten to make provision in the budget.

(The Finance Minister was turning to the other side and conversing.)

I wish he turns to my side. If some of the members fall ill, I am afraid their wives will put in claims for compensation. Plenty of provision must be made for that. As regards bachelors, nobody will mourn their loss. (A voice: Why should not the wives of the members accompany the members?) If the wives of the members are permitted to go to the hills as my Friend suggests, the number of applications for compensation will increase. I think it is a heavy responsibility that the Government and this House will have to take if, in spite of the wish of some members to the contrary, this House decides by a majority to go to the hills. I think it is a legal matter about which the Government will have to consult their legal adviser.